

In sending specimens of plants for investigation it is desirable to include the entire plant; if it is too large, portions showing leaves, flowers, and fruit are sufficient. It is best to prepare the specimens by drying them under pressure between folds of absorbent paper, otherwise the parts may shrink and break so as to be hardly recognizable. When dried plants are sent they should be protected from breakage in the mail by being inclosed in sheets of paper between pieces of stiff pasteboard. If specimens are to be sent fresh, moisten them slightly and pack them tightly in a box or in a bundle, wrapping them in heavy paper. Write the name of the sender on the outside. In the letter accompanying the specimens state where each plant was collected, the date, the name of the collector, and add any other notes in regard to the economic value of the plant.

Packages weighing less than four pounds may be sent by mail at the rate of one cent per ounce.

United States Department of Agriculture,

Botanical Division,

Washington, D. C., Dec. 9 1891.

Prof. Sereno Watson,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I send with this a *Borretella* at first determined by me as *B. Wirtgenii*. But on comparison with Herb. specimens I doubt the correctness of my determination. Mr. Carleton's plant - the one I send, is stouter than any plant we have, has a more foliose stem, leaves shorter, anaplexizante, and siliques larger, with a more decided retuse apex. Since you are the author of *B. Wirtgenii*, you are the best man to decide whether you will let this form stand with the species, or as a variety, or as a species.

I also enclose some crude drawings of that little *Houstonia*. Prof. Coulter thinks it the same as one of Pringle's plants of 1890.

Very cordially yours,

John M. Holzinger.